Numb. 5838

The London Gazette

Published by Authority.

From Tuesday March 29. to Saturday April 2. 1726.

Naples, March 8.

YEsterday arrived the Royal Oak, a British Man of War, in four Days from Trapani, with Letters from Captain Saunders for Sir George Byng, giving an Account, that General Mercy with the Body of Imperial Forces under his Command, advanced the 12th of February from Trapani towards the Spanish Army under the Marquess de Lede. On the 13th the Imperial Trumpeter who had been sent back with Sig. Ponte, to whom General Mercy had declared his Resolutions touching the Suspension of Arms proposed by the Marquess de Lede, returned without any Answer. M. Spinola who had commanded in the Citadel of Messina, and was posted with a Detachment at Salemi, retired on the Approach of the Imperialists the 14th; the same Day the Spaniards abandoned likewise Santa Nympha and Partana; and on the 15th General Mercy fixed his Head Quarters at Castel Veterano, cantoning his Troops in that Neighbourhood. On the 17th General Seckendorf was detached with about 1500 Men to attack Xacca. On the 19th General Mercy dispatched a Courier from Castel Veterano to Captain Saunders at Trapani, with a Letter acquainting him, that the Marquess de Lede having demanded a 2d Passport for two of his General Officers, the Marquess de St. Vincence and Sig. Ponte, he had granted it, and they were come to Castel Veterano with Instructions to renew with him the Conferences for a Suspension of Arms; and desiring Captain Saunders to come by Sea to Mazzara, whence he would order a Guard to accompany him safe to his Quarters. The contrary Weather prevented Captain Saunders's Arrival there till the 24th, when General Mercy communicated to him the Articles of a Treaty, which had been formed between him and the 2 Spanish General Officers, by Virtue of which Palermo was to be forthwith delivered up to the Imperialists, the Blockade of Syracusa by the Spaniards to be raised, and the Spanish Army to be limited to a certain Part of the Island during a Suspension of Arms for six Weeks. On the 25th the Marquess de St. Vincence went with this Treaty to the Spanish Camp, in order to bring back the Marquess de Lede's final Resolution thereupon. On the 28th an Imperial Trumpeter who had attended the Marquess de St. Vincence to the Spanish Camp, returned with Dispatches from the Marquess de Lede for Sig. Ponte, ordering him to return; whereupon he desired a Passport of General Mercy, and went back accordingly. Immediately after, General Mercy gave new Orders for attacking Xacca, which had been retarded by great Rains that had hindered the sending of Artillery to General Seckendorf. On the 29th, General Mercy gave Orders for attacking Santa Vita, a small Port possessed by the Enemy in the Neighbourhood of Salemi. The next Morning Captain Saunders left Castel Veterano, and returned to Trapani, where the Convoy and Transports with the last Body of the Imperialists from Messina, which had been long detained at Melazzo by contrary Winds, arrived on the 3d Instant: General Wachtendonck who commanded those Forces, died at Sea the Day before their Arrival at Trapani. This Day arrived here the Orford and the Canterbury, two British Men of War, with a Spanish Prize of 48 Guns, taken on the Coast of Spain.

Genoa, March 26. By Letters from Naples of the 15th of this Month we have received Advice, that Admiral Byng, who had been detained some Days there by contrary Winds, sailed that Day for Trapani; from whence there were Advices of the 9th of the Surrender of Xacca, which was the more considerable Acquisition, because about 30000 Salme (a Measure of 25 Pound in Weight) of Bread-Corn were found in the Place, which would be a very seasonable Supply for the Imperial Army. The Garrison consisting of 500 Foot and 200 Horse, were made Prisoners of War. That Place held out but a Day and a half after the Cannon had begun to play upon it. The Imperial Forces which arrived at Trapani on the 3d Instant, marched on the 7th to join General Mercy. It is rumoured that on the 21st Instant in the Night Cardinal Alberoni left Sestri, accompanied only by one Person, in Disguise, in order to retire to some Place of Safety.